



**U.S. Department of
Transportation**
Office of the Secretary
of Transportation

General Counsel

**400 Seventh St., S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20590**

October 7, 2005

Vernon A. Williams, Secretary
Surface Transportation Board
Suite 700
1925 K Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20423-0001

Re: The 25th Anniversary of the Staggers Rail Act of 1980
Ex Parte No. 658

Dear Secretary Williams:

Pursuant to the Notice in the above-referenced docket, the United States Department of Transportation hereby gives notice of its intent to participate in this proceeding. The undersigned will appear on behalf of the Department to stress the importance of retaining the benefits brought about by the Staggers Rail Act of 1980. I request a total of five minutes' time during the course of the hearing.

Respectfully submitted,

PAUL SAMUEL SMITH
Senior Trial Attorney
(202) 366-9280